

# A RAILROAD OVER OLD SANTA FE TRAIL ROUTE

Picturesque Reminder of the Frontier Days Will Now Echo to Chug of Trains Through Colmar Cut-off.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 8.—Officials of the Santa Fe railroad have announced that the cut-off from Dodge City, Kan., to Colmar, N. M., is to be built and test work upon it will begin this winter. The cut-off will save nearly two miles in distance and nearly four hours in time for through trains of that road. The new cut-off will be the straightest line of railroad in the state. For 157 miles it will be as straight as a plumb line, without a curve, and without a grade that will exceed seven feet to the mile. This line will traverse the level prairie of four of the five railroads of Kansas. Lay a rule upon the map, with its edge resting upon Dodge City and Colmar, draw a straight line between the two towns, and you will have the route of the new road. In its entire length it will not touch a town of even a village. Townships have been bought by officials of the Santa Fe who hope to make a large profit upon the investment.

Everyone in these countries is talking about the new railroad. They have been hoping for a railroad there for 25 years. Several times in those years a railroad has started to go through and been abandoned, and there have been dozens of paper roads.

In 1887 A. J. Soule, maker of a patent medicine in Rochester, N. Y., came to Dodge City and built a railroad from there to Montezuma, a distance of 40 miles. He intended to build on through to the Pacific, but he built an irrigation ditch and a college in Dodge City, too, and after his road had been in operation two years it was abandoned. The steel was taken up and the settlers handed the ties away for firewood. Montezuma, which had a population of 500, dwindled to nothing when the railroad went, and now it is houses and deserted, another tragedy of the semi-arid plains.

A year ago another railroad started to build south through Haskell county from Garden City and hoped to link the roads of the settlers again. This road built a bridge across the Arkansas river, but last winter it pulled up the bridge and abandoned the project.

Now the settlers say: "I'll believe the Santa Fe is coming when I see the steam cars a-hiking through here, not before."

But President Rinker says it will be built, the route has been surveyed and decided on, and the officials of the Santa Fe have bought 19,000 acres of land in Gray county, 12,000 in Haskell, 17,000 in Seward, 42,000 in Grant, 40,000 in Stevens, and 180,000 in Morton county. The cash has been paid for these lands and the seeds transferred to the Santa Fe Land company. The price paid averaged \$7 an acre. When the road goes through they aim to sell it for an average of \$20 an acre.

The line of the road, as surveyed, goes from Dodge City southwest across Gray and Haskell counties, passing six miles south of Santa Fe, the county seat, crossing three miles through the southwest corner of Grant county, passing 28 miles south of Ulysses, the county seat, crosses the northwest corner of Stevens county, 12 miles north of Hugoan, the county seat, and crosses the southeast corner of Morton county, 28 miles from Bigfield, the county seat. In all of these county seat towns there is disappointment and gloom.

"I reckon we'll have to move six miles south to the railroad," said a business man of Santa Fe. "We've been waiting 25 years for a railroad in this town, and, by jing, if she won't come to us we'll naturally make this town down to her. Sixty miles ain't much of a move for a town. They moved the town of Ulysses three miles and set her up in better shape than she ever was, and done it in a week, too."

But, as Kipling says: "That's an other story."

A writer in describing the old Santa Fe trail says:

The Arkansas river at this season is a mere thread of water winding like a silver ribbon through a wide bed of level granite-red sand. A 6-year-old boy might ford it now and not wade knee deep. Leaning from the side of the motor car and peering over the edge of the bridge you see schools of minnows, breasting the shallow ripples that sparkle in the sunshine.

When the waters of the melted mountain snows sweep down this valley the torrent spreads nearly a mile wide and it runs that way for months. The surface of its sandy bed, baked dry and hard now by the summer sun,

has written upon it the story of the last spring flood. Long sandbars, gullies scoured out by the current, ridges and furrows show where the waters rushed in cross currents and passed in swirling eddies.

Here the long trains of the old Santa Fe trail toiled with clogging axles through the narrow stream, over the dry bed and on through the sandhills for six miles to the open, smooth prairie beyond.

South of the Arkansas river, through all its length in western Kansas, dunes of sand cover a strip from six to eight miles wide.

Our driver says Noche's flood despoiled those sand hills, but he isn't sure of it. They are a succession of mounds from 25 to 50 feet high of finely pulverized sand, covered with sage brush, soap weed and a short buffalo grass that makes the best of pasture. In places you see where the winds have blown the sand out of the side of a hill, scooping out a deep gully there and depositing it in a ridge a little further on.

In the middle of the afternoon a cloud came up out of the southwest like a curtain of black pushed up from the horizon, and with a high wind that tossed the edges of the cloud into grayish spume. The driver stopped the motor car with its back to the oncoming storm and fastened the curtains down.

The rain came across the prairie in a sheet of gray from earth to sky and the noise of it striking the earth was like the tramping of a herd of horses. The road where the motor car stood skirted the bottom edge of a gentle slope upward to the north. Five minutes after the rain reached us this slope was a vortex of down rushing water that whirled in eddies two feet deep around the car. The rain drops pummeled the hood of the car with the force of a hundred hammers, but inside we sat secure and dry and smoked and re-peopled the old Santa Fe trail, the marks of which are yet plainly visible across the prairie a few miles to the southward. We were not far from Fargo Springs. When Captain Josephine Strong Smith was killed by the Comanche Indians 78 years ago, while we smoke the driver tells the story as it was told to him when he was a boy on these plains 26 years ago.

Captain Smith was one of the real heroes of the plains, one of the kind who do things that the novel writers never hear of. He was the original pathfinder. He was the first white man who crossed the plains and mountains to the Pacific. He was known to the Indians as "the man who sleeps with one eye open." In 1832 or thereabouts he was guiding a company of trappers from St. Louis to Santa Fe. Nearing the forks of the Cimarron at Fargo Springs he rode ahead to see if there was water. A band of 20 Comanches surrounded him. He shot five of them dead with his pistol, then, with his left arm pierced by a lance, he drew his hatchet from his belt, rushed in among them and hacked down five more and as he lay upon the ground, mortally wounded, and the Indians rushed in to scalp him, he drew his knife and stabbed three of them to death, cut off the hand of 20 he killed 12, and he lies buried in the sand in an unmarked grave somewhere off there to the south.

At Fargo Springs there was once a town of nearly 1,000 persons. A newspaper, the Prairie Owl, was printed there. That was in 1888. Now there is not even a house and real Prairie Owls howl over the desolation. In a half hour after the sky clears the ground is dry. The rain had run off the sunbaked surface as if it had been a board floor, and had round the low places and had formed miniature circular lakes there, or had rolled in torrents to the dry creek beds far to the south and would soon be filling the Cimarron bank full. The men who have stuck to this country since it was first settled 25 years ago say that the land gets little good from the rains because the water runs off so quickly, but that this will be changed when the land is broken up. Then the rain will sink into the earth.

We come to a relic of the frontier days and stop to examine it. It is the body and top of one of the old express coaches that ran over the trail between Santa Fe and Kansas City before there were railroads out here. On one of its trips it had broken down and these upon the open prairie, far from the home of man, had lain ever since. Some one had taken its wheels, but the framework, preserved in the dry air of these steppes, 2,000 feet above the sea, was as sound as ever.

As usually treated, a sprained ankle will disable a man for three or four weeks, but by applying Chamberlain's Liniment freely as soon as the injury is received, and observing the directions with each bottle, a cure can be effected in from two to four days. For sale by all druggists.

#### Somewhat Different.

"Jim lied to me yesterday in order to get off to the ball game. He said his wife's mother was dead."

"I think you are mistaken. I heard what he said."

"Then what was it?"

"He said he would like to attend his mother-in-law's funeral!"—Boston Post.

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## BRILLIANT FUTURE FOUR CARLOADS OF WHEAT SHIPPED FROM CRUCES

The Coming of Statehood the Building of a Railroad, the Growth of Fruit Trees Will Aid to Its Prosperity.

High Quality of Grain is Being Sent to the Mills in El Paso; Makes An Excellent Grade of Flour.

(Special Correspondence to the Herald)

Last Cruces, N. M., Sept. 8.—Four cars of wheat were shipped from Deming and to the Globe mills at El Paso this week. About 20 more cars will be shipped from this station before the season is over. The American Wheat colony has been threshing for the past three weeks.

About 500 acres of wheat were planted in the upper valley this year. Most of this wheat is being threshed and taken to the mill. There are mills at Las Cruces, La Mesita, Anthony and El Paso. A large quantity is used for domestic uses.

Plans are now on foot for a pool billiard and bowling tournament to be held in the Armory bowling hall in the near future. The Los Cruces camp of Modern Woodmen of America has issued a challenge to the W. O. W. Lodge. A. M. W. A. gold ring will be awarded the person obtaining the highest score.

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The Young People's Christian Union held its regular meeting in the Presbyterian church on Tuesday night. The following interesting program was rendered: Solo, vocal, Miss Edith Burke; piano duet, Miss Eva Englebright; piano duet, Miss Sadie Stewart and Mrs. Nell Cross. This was followed by ten extemporaneous speeches, the subjects being drawn from a hat after the speakers had taken the floor, by the following: Mrs. Dallas Reeves, Mrs. Nell Cross, Miss Lynch, Miss Lena Brownlee, Miss Sadie Stewart, Letitia Taylor, Edmundson Link, Maurice Mitchell, Rev. Lulkerson, Rev. Thomas A. Mitchell and others.

Court street is being flooded to settle the loose dirt recently placed there to raise the grade. A. W. Hadley, traveling salesman for the James A. Dick company of El Paso, is in town.

The grand jury will meet the first Monday in October this fall. It is expected that there will be a full term.

Miss Josephine Morton has resumed her duties as librarian at the Agricultural college. Miss Anderson is to be her assistant librarian.

## S.S.S. CURES OLD SORES

Every person afflicted with an old sore realizes, sooner or later, that the ulcer exists because of bad blood: the character and condition of the place depending on the nature of the blood infection. Virulent impurities in the circulation produce angry, discharging ulcers, while milder, inert germs are usually manifested in the form of indolent sores or dry, scabby places. External treatment can never cure an internal trouble, therefore no one should depend upon salves, washes, lotions, etc., alone to cure a chronic sore. It is necessary to remove the cause before the place can heal. S. S. S. heals Old Sores by going down into the circulation and removing the impurities and germs which are responsible for the place. In addition to purifying the blood S. S. S. enriches this vital fluid so that the irritated flesh around an old sore is naturally and thoroughly stimulated, and a permanent cure results, because every morbid influence has been removed. S. S. S. is the best of all blood purifiers and therefore a natural remedy for old sores. Book on Sores and Ulcers and medical advice free. S. S. S. is sold at drug stores. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY DEMOCRATS HOLD A POW WOW

County Central Committee Gets Together in Chairman Barth's Office Yesterday: "A Red Hot Campaign."

Without any maneuvering or bantering or joking of any kind the Democratic central committee of Bernalillo county held an extended session in the office of Chairman Isaac Barth yesterday afternoon, with Secretary H. C. Crews as secretary. The meeting was well attended and great enthusiasm was manifested. The members of the committee were formally notified of the resignation of G. A. Larrazolo as a member of the state central committee. This being anent notice to all the commissioners, it was voted on the table after several hot remarks had been passed with reference to Mr. Larrazolo's going over to "The enemy."

The sentiment at the Democratic gathering yesterday seemed to be for a "red hot campaign," with much work in the precincts and less great and grand oratory on the street corners.

The county committee adjourned to meet again in the near future. It was decided to open down town campaign headquarters within a short time and to work with the state central committee for an overwhelming majority over the Republicans in Bernalillo county.

#### SOCIALISTS HOLD BALANCE OF POWER

Will Decide at Willard Meeting Whether to Affiliate With Republicans or Democrats.

(Special Correspondence to the Herald) Willard, N. M., Sept. 8.—The Republican central committee will meet Saturday afternoon at Estancia Terriance county is conceded by leaders of both parties as Republican, but still, if factional differences come up among the members of the grand old party, "The Democrats are not going to lose anything by it. It is expected that the central committee meeting is to be a regular coming-out party for the candidates for county offices.

The Socialist party will also hold a meeting at the county seat on the same date. It will be decided then whether that party will affiliate with either of the leaders, or put out a ticket of their own.

#### STUDENT PRESIDENT ELECTED AT COLLEGE

Chairman of Santa Fe Chosen Chairman of Student Commission; Other Officers Chosen.

Agricultural College, N. M., Sept. 8.—The student body held its first meeting Tuesday morning for the purpose of choosing a president whose chief duty will be that of chairman of the student commission. The constitution prescribes in its clauses that he shall be elected from the senior class. The nominations of John Anderson of Hillsboro, N. M., and Walter Windsor of Santa Fe, N. M., were placed before the body. Mr. Windsor was elected by a majority of the votes.

The student commission was created last year and is a form of self government consisting of commissioners elected from the various classes of the college, there being three from the senior class, two from the junior, two from the sophomore, two from the freshmen, two from the sophomore and two from the preparatory department. The commission handles all student questions and those dealing with the publication and management of the college paper.

After the student body meeting many of the classes reorganized and elected commissioners. The senior class elected John Anderson and Arthur Laferriere as representatives, and the junior class met and elected Knoe as class president and Baum and Briggs as commissioners. Sam Baumans resigned the management of the Swastika, the college annual published by the junior class each year, and Clay was elected in his stead. Several of the other classes elected officers and representatives also.

Miss Edith Louise Lynch has returned from a short trip to California. Miss Lynch will teach in the Los Cruces public schools this year. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dainger are the proud parents of a baby daughter, Will Lapoint, editor of the Los Cruces Citizen, spent Wednesday in El Paso on political business.

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